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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 17 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that on Wednesday, 11 August 1999, a Kuwaiti coastguard patrol arrested a wooden boat named Naurani inside Kuwaiti territorial waters. The boat was coming from Iraq and flying the United Arab Emirates flag.

Once the boat and its crew of 10 had been detained, it was discovered to have an export certificate from the port of Basra and to be carrying cotton seed, 75 cartons of infant milk powder and 25 cartons of infant feeding bottles, in clear and flagrant violation of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions.

This incident demonstrates beyond any doubt that the evil Iraqi regime is abusing the oil-for-food programme and that, far from distributing to the Iraqi people the humanitarian goods that it imports under that humanitarian programme, it is in fact exporting them outside the country, regardless of its own people's needs. The incident also demonstrates that the Iraqi regime is indifferent to the suffering of its people and only interested in exploiting that suffering as propaganda in order to achieve its aims and political purposes, namely, to have the sanctions lifted without having to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mansour Ayyad AL-OTAIBI
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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